

Congratulations to the 2006 Pollution Prevention Award Recipients

Columbian Chemicals Co.
North American Salt Co.
Raytheon Aircraft Co.
Wichita Public Schools



Columbian Chemicals Company

Columbian Chemicals Company is awarded for its efforts in energy efficiency.

Columbian Chemicals Company (CCC) produces carbon black, which is a fine powder used as a pigment and as a reinforcing agent in rubber. An EPA Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) hammer date for carbon black facilities commenced July 13, 2005. Rising energy costs, a recession in the carbon black market in North America, greater lead times for steel and tighter budgets challenged the plant to meet this deadline.

Going beyond MACT compliance, the management team realized the terrific opportunity presented in cogeneration. With careful deliberation and budget shuffling, CCC made the commitment of constructing a waste gas (tail gas) boiler and associated systems. This project resulted in a 90% reduction in boiler natural gas.

In addition, the company installed steam pin heaters to replace the natural gas used to pre-heat oil for production purposes, which has the potential of saving 10,000 mcf of natural gas each year.

With these projects, the company has achieved about a \$1.175 million cost avoidance for energy costs



Mark McGaughey, Columbian Chemicals Co. and KDHE Deputy Secretary Doug Farmer

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North American Salt Company

The North American Salt Company is awarded for its efforts in pollution prevention.

Mining practices at a former salt mine located in northeast Lyons that operated in the late-1800s until 1948 has caused chloride and VOC contamination in the groundwater northeast of Lyons. The contaminated groundwater plume is threatening the water quality of the drinking water supply wells at the City of Lyons. Since no responsible party was identified for the former salt mine, KDHE assumed responsibility for site closure.

In partnership with the North American Salt Company (NASC), KDHE installed two groundwater interceptor well systems consisting of five pumping wells which pump at a collective rate of approximately 230 gallons/minute. Installation of the groundwater wells was funded through the State Water Plan with additional contribution from the NASC. NASC has agreed to provide operation and maintenance costs, with some assistance from the City of Lyons. To date, the NASC has contributed \$165,000 of equipment, electricity, and labor to operate and maintain the remediation program. The remediation systems have captured and removed nearly 5,000 tons of chloride from the plume.

This project is a standout example of partnership and cooperative efforts between regulatory, municipal and industrial parties for the benefit of environmental protection.



*Larry Schulte, North American Salt Co.; KDHE Deputy Secretary
Doug Farmer; and Mike Chisam, North American Salt Co.*

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Raytheon Aircraft Company

Raytheon Aircraft Company is awarded for its efforts in energy efficiency.

During building inspections and energy assessments on the campus of Raytheon Aircraft Company, which covers one square mile, it was noticed many of the overhead lighting systems were being left on when not in use. On weekend visits during second and third shift, it was found that approximately 75% of the departmental personnel were not turning off the overhead lighting systems when they were not required. A comprehensive plan needed to be developed to shut down the lighting systems when not in use to ultimately save energy and annual energy costs.

In January 2004, the “Last One Out” project began. A team was formed utilizing experts from across the campus and goals were established that would result in energy reduction. Large buildings were broken down into zones where individuals were assigned to shutdown the lighting systems when not in use. Soft blue locator lights were installed to show the location of light switches and lighting zone maps were posted at each shut-off switch.

The project was able to reduce a tremendous amount of energy use, which in turn reduces air emissions at Westar Energy. Total savings from the project is estimated at \$127,616 and 4,908,331 kwh annually.



L. E. Waldmeier, Jr., Raytheon Aircraft Co. and KDHE Deputy Secretary Doug Farmer

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Raytheon Aircraft Company

Raytheon Aircraft Company is awarded for its efforts in education and outreach.

Raytheon Aircraft Company (RAC) Environmental Engineering has been involved with the Wichita Kansas Air Quality Improvement Task Force since its inception in 1999. The primary objective of the task force is to plan and implement strategies that will prevent the increase of “ground level ozone” and allow Wichita to remain in “attainment.”

On June 18, 2005, RAC Environmental Engineering hosted an on-site Voluntary Vehicle Emissions Testing and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day by partnering with the Wichita Air Quality Improvement Task Force and the Sedgwick County Department of Household Hazardous Waste.

Over 250 cars came through the HHW collection lanes dropping off 15.47 tons of HHW, which included 30,939 pounds of hazardous waste. A total of 66 vehicles had emissions and gas caps tested. The automobile owners were educated about air pollution prevention and were provided a report and results of their emissions test. Owners could then follow through with recommended repairs, tune-ups, or gas cap replacement as warranted.



*Michael Price, Raytheon Aircraft Co. and KDHE Deputy Secretary
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Wichita Public Schools

Wichita Public Schools is awarded for its efforts in pollution prevention.

With the passage of a bond issue in April 2001 that included improvements at many science labs, the Wichita Public Schools took the opportunity to clean out the old science labs. A “Clean Sweep” program was employed across the district, where schools would inventory materials and items that were no longer needed or wanted would be properly picked-up and disposed.

During this process, elemental mercury was eliminated from the science storage rooms, along with a host of other unwanted hazardous chemicals. The “Clean Sweep” was a success as each of the high schools cleaned up and cleared out their old spaces and entered into new facilities.

However, the high school labs still had in their possession mercury thermometers. Nationally, a number of high profile incidents involving mercury spills created an awareness of the many hazards associated with mercury. The schools decided to be proactive and eliminate mercury thermometers from the labs, replacing them with digital and/or red spirit thermometers.

In addition to replacing over 300 mercury thermometers, the schools disposed of over 70 mercury and mercury compound containers and over 34,500 mercury containing lamps.



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